

Public Involvement Meeting

**Wisconsin Rapids, Second Avenue South
Gaynor Avenue to WIS 13
WIS 54/73
Wood County**

Project ID 6999-03-70



**September 23, 2015
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
McMillian Library, All Purpose Room
Wisconsin Rapids**

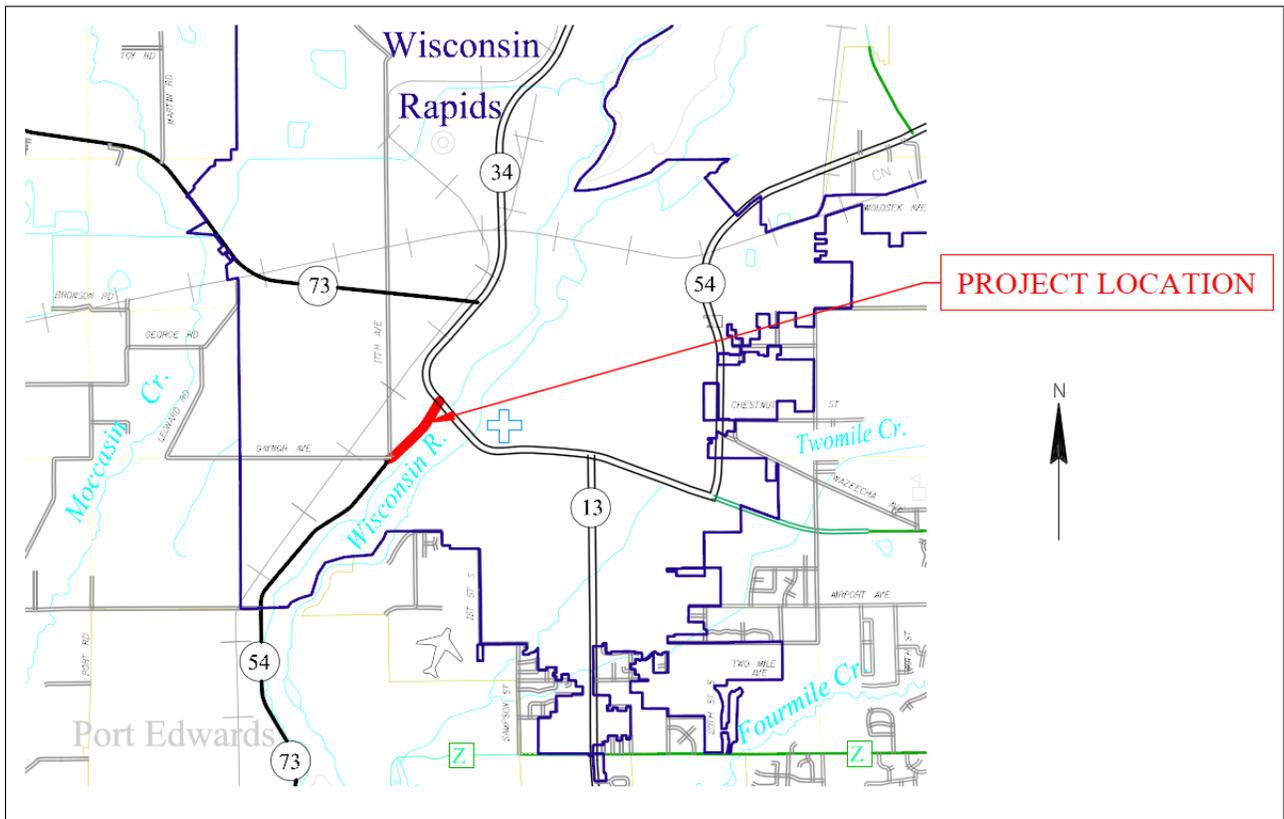
A brief presentation is scheduled to begin at 5:45 p.m.

Purpose of the meeting

The objective of today's meeting is to present information regarding the project purpose and need, review alternatives, answer questions and obtain your input. A brief presentation will begin at 5:45 p.m. After the presentation, the meeting will follow an open house format.

Purpose and need for roadway improvements

We are proposing to improve WIS 54/73 between Gaynor Avenue and WIS 13 in Wisconsin Rapids.



Project Location Map

We have identified several needs at this section of WIS 54/73:

- Traffic delays at the WIS 13 intersection
- Traffic signal timing at the WIS 13 intersection contributes to inefficient traffic movements
- Access near the WIS 13/54/73 intersection creates conflicts with turning intersection traffic
- Opportunity to improve pavement marking and signing to maximize roundabout efficiency

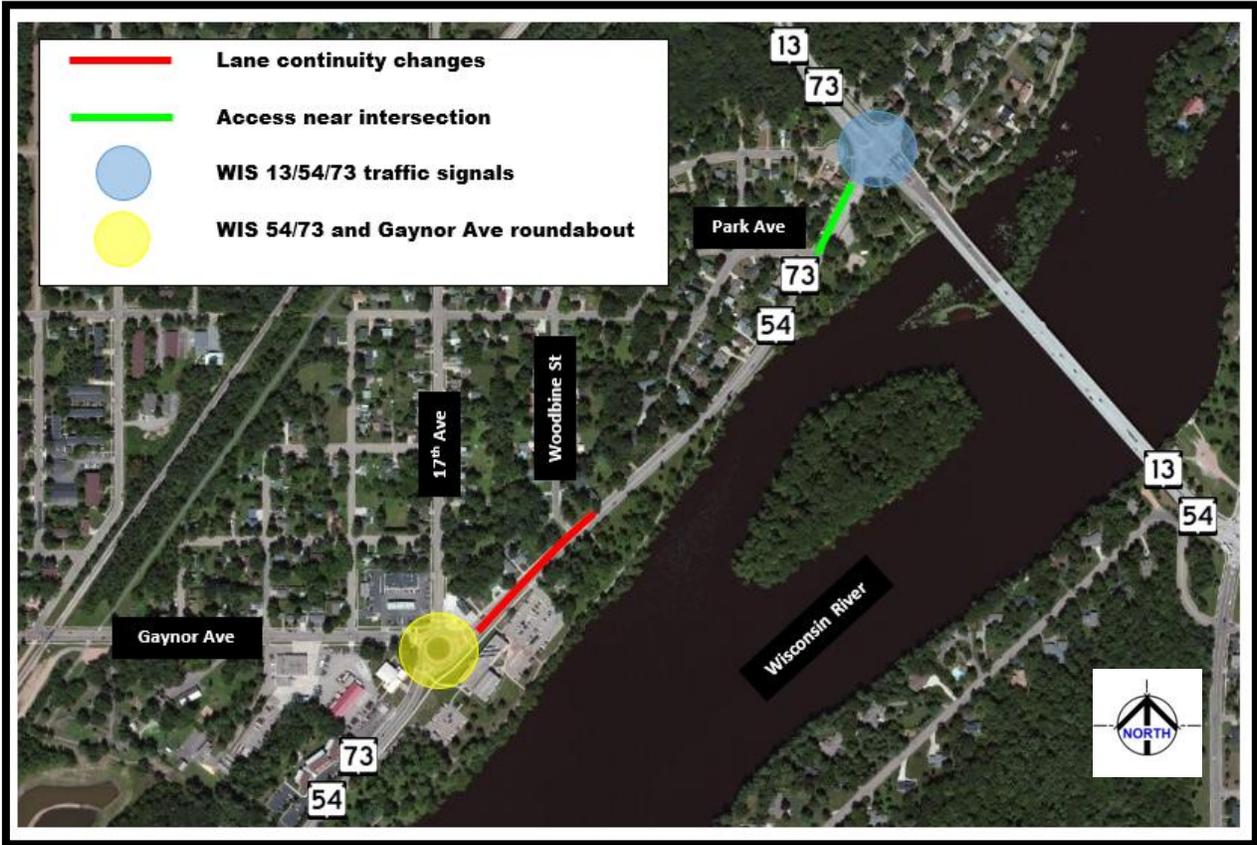
WIS 13/54/73 traffic signals and WIS 54/73 lane continuity

Westbound WIS 54/73 narrows from two lanes to one lane between WIS 13 and Woodbine Street. Because of this lane configuration, left-turning traffic along WIS 13 (northbound to westbound) is not effectively using the dual left-turn lanes at the signalized intersection with WIS 54/73. The driver’s expectation at this location is causing traffic to backup on WIS 13 and the traffic backups are also leading to some crashes.

There are driveways located within 500 feet of the WIS 13/54/73 intersection that are within the intersection’s “area of influence.” The area of influence affects how well an intersection functions. Design standards encourage avoiding entrance/exit points within this area so that traffic movements through the intersection do not conflict with other entering/exiting traffic outside of the intersection.

WIS 54/73 and Gaynor Avenue roundabout

This roundabout was one of the first constructed in Wisconsin. Improvements to design standards have been made over time including signing and pavement marking on roundabout approaches to more effectively manage traffic. While there are no major safety concerns at the existing roundabout, large trucks moving in a westbound/southbound direction occasionally encroach into adjacent lanes. We plan to address this traffic movement with improved signing and pavement marking.



Proposed solutions that could address the project's purpose and need

Through a cooperative effort with the city of Wisconsin Rapids, we completed data collection and evaluations of existing conditions in this section of WIS 54/73. A number of factors were considered:

- Traffic flow and movements through the WIS 13 intersection
- Safety conditions
- Signing and pavement marking
- Traffic movements and conditions within the Gaynor Avenue roundabout

These investigations evaluated various improvements to keep traffic moving safely and efficiently along WIS 54/73 between Gaynor Avenue and WIS 13. Proposed improvements include:

- Partial reconstruction/widening of WIS 54/73 to provide two westbound/southbound lanes from the Gaynor Avenue roundabout to Woodbine Street
- Traffic signal timing upgrades at WIS 13 to optimize traffic movements through the intersection
- Four access removals on WIS 54/73 near the WIS 13 intersection to improve overall intersection operations
- Pavement marking and signing improvements along WIS 54/73 between Gaynor Avenue and Woodbine Street to improve traffic movements entering the Gaynor Avenue roundabout

While signing and marking upgrades within the roundabout were evaluated as part of the project traffic studies, there are no operational benefits anticipated from signing and marking alone. Signing and marking within the roundabout will continue to be maintained as part of city maintenance activities along this section of WIS 54/73. The city of Wisconsin Rapids is planning pavement improvements in summer 2017.

Proposed traffic impacts

An improvement project is currently scheduled for 2019, but could occur as early as 2018. During construction, WIS 54/73 and WIS 13 will remain open to traffic. Motorists can expect to encounter periodic flagging operations and single lane closures on WIS 54/73 and WIS 13 in each direction.

Access to adjacent properties will be maintained during construction, however, brief interruptions in access may occur temporarily at driveways when work is occurring directly in front of your home or business. We will notify homeowners and businesses prior to construction.

Real estate

Real estate acquisitions are anticipated as part of the improvement project. Strip taking of right of way and temporary easements will be required to accommodate the lane widening and overhead sign installation.

Some of the real estate will be required from the Ben Hansen Park and will be evaluated through the environmental process in coordination with the city of Wisconsin Rapids. Additional real estate will be required from other adjacent properties, as shown on the exhibits.

Estimated right of way impacts are shown on the exhibits. The city of Wisconsin Rapids expects to begin the real estate acquisitions in spring 2016.

Project update/next steps

Representatives from the WisDOT project team conducted a meeting with local officials in April and August 2015. After tonight's public involvement meeting, we will continue with the preliminary design process, while considering your comments.

The anticipated schedule for the project is as follows:

Final environmental document	Fall 2015
Preliminary plans	Winter 2015/2016
Final right of way plat	Winter 2015/2016
Real estate negotiations	As early as spring 2016
Second public involvement meeting	Spring 2016
Final plans	Summer 2017
Construction currently scheduled	2019*

*Construction could occur as early as 2018

For more information about the WIS 54/73 project, please visit the project website:
<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/wis54wis73/default.aspx>

Public input/comments

We encourage you to talk to the project representatives and ask them questions. Attached to this handout is a sheet for your written comments and input regarding the proposed improvement project. Please mail any written comments about the project before **October 7, 2015** or leave them in the comment box tonight. You may also email your comments to the contacts listed below.

Your comments assist us in developing a project that will serve the needs of the traveling public as well as the needs of the local community. Your input is welcome and appreciated throughout the design process.

Design related questions/comments can be directed to:

Stephanie Christensen, P.E.
EMCS, Inc.
500 North 17th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
715.845.1081
schristensen@emcsinc.com

Real estate related questions/comments can be directed to:

Joe Eichsteadt, P.E.
Wisconsin Rapids City Engineer
444 West Grand Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
715.421.8251
jeichsteadt@wirapids.org

Fold here

Place
Stamp
Here

EMCS, Inc.
500 North 17th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
Attn: Stephanie Christensen

To mail, fold here and staple.